Ill effects of Pesticides for human beings

3072. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that aerial spraying of pesticides like Endosulfan in Kasargod district, Kerala is causing crippling diseases in many households;

(b) whether it is a fact that Endosulfan has been identified World over as one of the most harmful pesticides for human beings; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Government is aware of the News-item which states that very high levels of the said Insecticide was found in the blood and in various food items. The ill effects caused by Endosulfan aerial spreying has also been brought to the notice of Government of Kerala by Print and electronic media and representations by the public;

Endosulfan is a broad spectrum organochlorine insecticide/ acaricide which is registered in India for control of large variety of insects & mites in crops. Endosulfan is moderately to highly toxic. According to Indian Council of Agricultural Research, this insecticide is considered to be relatively safe with acceptable daily intake.

Endosulfan is registered under the Insecticides Act for use in agriculture in the country. Use of this insecticides has been reviewed by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and has been recommended for continued use, with a warning statement on the labels and leaflets, indicating that Endosulfan should not be used near the water sources. Also the tolerance limit of residues of Endosulfan in various raw food commodities has been laid down under PFA Act (1954).